natural calamities including damage caused by storms in the month of May, 1995.

Evaluation of Early Childhood Education

*91. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake an evaluation of early childhood education in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MNISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The evaluation of Early Childhood Education Scheme has been entrusted to the National institute of public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD). The broad objectives of this evaluation are to:

(i) Study the organisational and administrative set up of the ECE centres and assess their functional efficiency.

(ii) Assess the quality of services provided in the centres and identify factors/variables associated with it.

(iii) Assess the impact of ECE on school enrolment and adjustment of children; and

(iv) Identify areas of weakness in the scheme and suggest ways of improvement.

Appointment of Chairman, National Commission for women

*92. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minisiter of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for not appointing the Chairman and Members of the National Commission for Women and how long there have been vacancies which have not been filled; and

(b) when was the Report of the National Commission for Women last presented to the Parliament and when is the next report likely to be presented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Does not arise. One Member was nominated on 26.10.1994 for a period of three years. The Member Secretary was nominated with effect from 29.5.1992. The Chairperson and the four other Members were nominated on 20.7.1995.

(b) The first annual report of the National Commission for Women is yet to be presented to parliament. It will be presented to Parliament alongwith the Action Taken Report shortly. The next Annual Report will be presented to Parliament on its receipt from National Commission for Women.

Sub-standard Admissions in Medical and Engineering colleges

*93. SHRI K.R. MALKANT:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that students with 4% and even 1% marks are being given admission in professional colleges;

(b) if so, whether Indian degrees will become worthless, if such-sub-standard admissions are made to medical and engineering colleges; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Reports about some cases of this nature have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) The All India Council for Technical Education has prescribed

guidelines for determining admissions to engineering degree courses. It is one of the responsibilities of the AICTE to continuously monitor standards of engineering education and to take steps from time to time to ensure good standard.

For medical degree courses, the Medical Council of India has prescribed criteria for admission of students.

Reservation for Minorities in Public Employment and Educational Institutions

*94. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI S. MADHAVAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering giving separate reservation to religious Minorities in public employment and educational institutions in view of their backwardness;

(b) how many State Governments have provided such reservation to Muslims as a separate group among the Backward Classes;

(c) whether there is any constitutional bar against giving reservation to religious Minorities based on their backwardness; and

(d) whether Government will consider survey of the Socio-Economic backwardness of different Minorities in the country for giving benefit under Article 15 and 16?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) There is no proposal for giving separate reservation to religious minorities in public employment and educational institutions. However, those sections of the minority communities which are socially and educationally backward have been included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the purposes of providing reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services under the Government of India.

The State Governments of Karnataka and Kerala have included "Muslims" as Other Backward Classes and are giving them benefits of Other Backward Classes.

The backward class of citizens contemplated in Article 16(4) is social backwardness and in Article 15(4) it is social and educational backwardness. Therefore, conduct of survey of socio-economic backwardness for giving benefit under Articles 15 and 16 does not arise.

Prediction for Monsoon

*95. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the predictions for rain, monsoons in general, and rain-fed agriculture for the current year;

(b) whether it is normal or deficient;

(c) whether it has adversely affected the crops already; and

(d) the steps being taken to give a better forecasting of rains in advance?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) According to India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast, south-west monsoon season (June to September) rainfall in the current year is likely to be normal i.e. 97% of its long period average value within estimated error limit of ± 4%. No separate predictions of rain are made for rainfed agriculture or any other disaggregated level of geographical area.

(b) The total rainfall so far (1st June to 31st July, 1995) in the current monsoon season in the country is 95% of its long period average value which is normal and within the predicted limit.

(c) There was some initial delay in sowing of kharif crops due to delayed onset of monsoon in certain parts of the country. However, wide-spread rains received from 2nd week of July and